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ABSTRACT

This book examines the science and politics of cognitive sex differences, reflecting theories and research in the area over the past several years. Eight chapters discuss: (1) "Introduction and Overview" (e.g., theoretical approaches, values and science, and terminology); (2) "Searching for Sex Differences in Cognitive Abilities" (e.g., the need for research, understanding research results, and evaluating research claims); (3) "Empirical Evidence for Cognitive Sex Differences" (e.g., intelligence, memory, and similarities); (4) "Biological Hypotheses Part I: Genes and Hormones" (the notion of biological determination, behavioral genetics, and sex hormones); (5) "Biological Hypotheses Part II: Brains, Evolutionary Pressures, and Brain-Behavior Relationships" (e.g., introduction to the brain, the sexually dimorphic brain, and sexual orientation and the brain); (6) "Psychosocial Hypotheses Part I: Sex Role Stereotypes through the Lifespan" (e.g., gender as a social construction, how stereotypes direct and reflect reality, and sex-linked socialization practices through the lifespan); (7) "Psychosocial Hypotheses Part II: Theoretical Perspectives for Understanding the Role of Psychosocial Variables" (e.g., learning theories, social learning theory, and social ecology); and (8) "Using a Psychobiosocial Perspective To Understand Cognitive Sex Differences" (myopia USA, a psychobiosocial perspective, and into the future). (Contains approximately 900 references.) (SM)